

**CHRIST**

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BANGALORE · INDIA

## Notice for the PhD Viva-Voce Examination

Ms Jinsy K Mathai (Registration Number: 1830074), PhD scholar at the School of Social Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Friday, 14 February 2025 at 11.00 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R & D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029.

<b>Title of the Thesis</b>	:	<b>Sex Reassignment Surgery and Wellbeing of Transgender in South India</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	:	<b>Economics</b>
<b>External Examiner</b> (Outside Karnataka)	:	<b>Dr Lekha Chakraborty</b> Professor National Institute of Public Finance and Policy 18/2, Satsang Vihar Marg New Delhi - 110067
<b>External Examiner</b> (Within Karnataka)	:	<b>Dr Vilas M Kadrolkar</b> Associate Professor Department of Economics Tumkur University Vishwavidyanilaya Karyalaya B H Road, Tumkur – 572103 Karnataka
<b>Supervisor</b>	:	<b>Dr Divya Pradeep</b> Associate Professor Department of Economics School of Social Sciences CHRIST (Deemed to be University) Bengaluru - 560029 Karnataka

The members of the Research Advisory Committee of the Scholar, the faculty members of the Department and the School, interested experts and research scholars of all the branches of research are cordially invited to attend this open viva-voce examination.

**Place:** Bengaluru  
**Date:** 04 February 2025

  
**Registrar**

# ABSTRACT

Sex reassignment surgery (SRS) refers to procedures that help transgender persons transition to their preferred gender identity which is not the same as the sex assigned at birth. This study attempts to examine the issue of SRS among male to female transgender people in South India focusing on the reasons for why they choose to undergo the surgery, the various procedures and related costs and the wellbeing outcomes associated with SRS. The study also examines the support provided by the government in assisting transgenders with SRS. The study follows a mixed methods design using both quantitative and qualitative methods. Participants included fifty transgender people from Kerala, Tamil Nādu and Karnataka who were recruited using a purposive sampling technique. In-depth interviews with open ended exploratory questions helped to uncover why people choose to undergo SRS and the wellbeing experiences associated with SRS. We have examined these in the light of the critical gender theory and transgender theory. Additionally, we also explored the experience of disruptions in SRS procedures during COVID-19 pandemic and other livelihood pressures faced by them during the time. We use the narrative thematic analysis to provide structure to our arguments.

Data was also gathered using semi-structured questionnaires. The sample for the quantitative survey includes 106 Male to Female (M to F) transgender people. Descriptive statistics are used to analyse the procedures and costs of treatments, the relative influence of peers, family and friends for undertaking SRS, and the satisfaction with the treatments. Respondents were selected purposively based on information collected from NGOs such as PAYANA, SWABHAVA (charitable trust), SANGAMA to get a fair representation of transgenders who had completed SRS; who were in the process of transition; and those who did not engage or intend to engage with SRS. Hypothesis testing was done to compare the wellbeing outcomes of those who have undergone SRS with those who have not undergone SRS.

We found that sex reassignment surgery was undertaken mainly due to gender dysphoria experienced by transgender people that affected transgender people's quality of life and overall wellbeing. However, the peer effect of undertaking surgery was also seen to be a significant factor. The study also revealed that SRS could enhance the emotional health of the transgender people, enhance their quality of life, increase their confidence in the workplace and improve the quality of interactions with people in their own community.

*Keywords: Sex reassignment surgery, Wellbeing, Male to Female Transgender people, Critical gender theory*

## Publication:

1. **Jinsy K Mathai**, Sex reassignment surgery and wellbeing of India's transgender community: A hijra culture. *International Journal of Health Sciences*, 2022, 6(S1), 5899–5918.  
<http://sciencescholar.us/journal/index.php/ijhs/article/view/6212>